

SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS COMMISSION (SMWBC)
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012

CITY HALL, MAYOR AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS
255 WEST ALAMEDA
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

Members Present

Patty Richardson

Janet Marcotte

Karen Clifton

Katharine Kent, P.E., CEM

Jesse Lugo

Sandra Otero

Andrew Jones

Sheldon Fishman

Ken Goodman, Pima County Small Business Commission

Members Absent/Excused

Marion Hook

Pamela Sutherland

Ghazal Farhang

Others Present

Liana Perez, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (OEOP)

Michelle Flanagan, OEOP

2. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2012

Motion to approve minutes by Karen Clifton, second by Andrew Jones, passed 8 to 0.

4. Chairperson's Update

Katharine Kent said Ghazal Farhang submitted her resignation from the SMWBC resulting in two available vacancies for Ward 4. Ms. Kent said the SMWBC members' meeting attendance allows four absences per calendar year and is closely monitored by the Clerk's Office. Ms. Kent attended Ward 3's Neighborhood Coalition Meeting and provided information related to her business and the SMWBC. Marion Hook provided SMWBC orientation to Janet Marcotte.

5. Single Use Plastic Bag Working Group
Katharine Kent said she monitored the plastic bag recycling process from the Bashas location in Tucson to the Bashas recycling facility in Chandler. Ms. Kent said the current City Ordinance states any retail outlet over 10,000 square-feet with 25% food product sales is required to have a recycling center near the entrance. Ms. Kent said only 15% of plastic bags are recycled with the remaining 85% being the film used to wrap pallets. Ms. Kent said the group will provide a recommendation to Mayor and Council regarding single-use plastic bag recycling, education and awareness.
6. Graffiti Plan
Jesse Lugo said he corresponded with Jack Woolridge of the Tucson Police Department who advised lack of funding is a main concern. Mr. Lugo suggested adding a graffiti abatement contribution line to the Tucson Water Utility Services Statement. The SMWBC members said they would discuss the graffiti concern with their respective Council Members before proceeding with a formal recommendation to the City Manager, Mayor and Council.
7. Pima County Small Business Commission (PCSBC) Update – Ken Goodman
Patty Richardson provided an update to the PCSBC. She presented the SMWBC newsletter and provided brief information on the Single Use Plastic Bag Working Group and the Small Business Ombudsman position. Ken Goodman advised a movie production bill presented to the State Legislature was rejected.
8. SMWBC Business Award
Katharine Kent suggested the commission consider offering a small business award on behalf of the SMWBC. The commissioners agreed to discuss at the June meeting.
9. Communications Subcommittee – Andrew Jones
Andrew Jones requested the commissioners provide questions for the next issue of the SMWBC newsletter.
10. Small Business Ombudsman Update – Maricela Solis, Mayor's Office (Discussed after Item 6 and readdressed after Item 8)
Maricela Solis said she is continuing to track calls received from the business community and will provide a report by June 5th. Ms. Solis said she would also compile a final report of the Mayor's 180-day Work Plan. She advised the City of Tucson is responding to a Request for Information by the Arizona Commerce Authority for unmanned air systems. She said the FAA is seeking six communities across the United States for purposes of allowing unmanned aircrafts in commercial airspace. She said the Arizona Tech Council advised there are over 100 aerospace and defense small businesses in Tucson that could benefit from the opportunity.

The SMWBC discussed the Small Business Ombudsman position. Patty Richardson recommended the commissioners review the report Ms. Solis will provide in June.

11. Commission Member Updates

Jesse Lugo said the Alliance of Construction Trades (ACT) and the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce will host the Southern Arizona Technology & Construction Expo on June 8th. Jim Kulish with ACT provided complimentary tickets for the event. Patty Richardson said she is corresponding regularly with Maricela Solis regarding her attendance at the SMWBC meetings. Janet Marcotte introduced herself to the commission. Sheldon Fishman said Clarence Boykins is now the Chairperson for the Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Alliance. Mr. Fishman said his business is in the process of writing a grant to secure five million dollars in micro-business loans. Sandra Otero said Ward 5 is hosting a town hall meeting along with guest speaker Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. Karen Clifton said Mayor and Council will discuss and take action on the Economic Development item at the June 5th meeting. Katharine Kent said her business worked with the Pima County One-Stop program to provide OSHA training to her employees. Ms. Kent said as of July 1st, the City of Tucson will accept all plastic excluding plastic bags and styrofoam.

12. Future Agenda Items

Commission Goals for 2012
Arizona Commerce Authority
Peddler's Ordinance
Single-Use Plastic Bag Working Group
Sign Code Issues
Downtown Tucson Partnership
Hud 108 Loans

13. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Sheldon Fishman, second by Andrew Jones. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

NOTE: It is the intent of these meeting minutes to get the general meaning of the discussion, summarize what happened, and record official actions. The minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of all that was said.

SMWBC Minutes: 5-24-2012

Approved: 6-28-2012